

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 031430Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6286

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABUDHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2464

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB AND DCM RANSOM ON 2 SEPT YAR MINSTATE AHMAD ABU SAID SAID PRES HAMDI BELIEVES THAT LOCAL RIGHT WING IS EFFECTIVELY BOXED IN AT THIS POINT, AND THAT HE MUST NOW TURN HIS ATTENTION TO THE YEMENI LEFT.

2. SAID CONTINUED THAT DESPITE APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO CONTENANCE HIATUS IN INFILTRATION AND SUBVERSIVE ACTS IN SOUTHERN PARTS OF YAR, PDRY MAINTAINS ITS SUPPORT OF LEFTIST POLITICAL ACTION, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT COOPERATIVE ELECTIONS, WHICH SEEN AS STEPPING STONE TO NEW MAJLIS. SAID READ NAMES OF SEVEN MEN WHO RECENTLY ELECTED ALTHOUGH THEY WELL KNOWN NLF APPARATCHIKS OR ARMY OFFICERS CASHIERED FOR LEFTIST SYMPATHIES. SAID STATED THAT YAR HAS SIMPLY NOT RPT NOT
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BEEN ABLE TO MATCH FUNDING, DRIVE AND ABILITY OF LOCAL

LEFTISTS TO APPEAL TO IDEALS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF YEMENI PEOPLE.

3. SAID OPINED THAT IN VIEW OF GOOD LOCAL ORGANIZATION AND PDRY SUPPORT, LEFT WILL BE TOUGHER NUT TO CRACK THAN MOTLEY GROUP OF RIGHT-WING YEMENI POLITICANS AND TRIBAL FIGURES. SAID OBSERVED WRYLY THAT ONLY THE QTE SAADA UNQTE IN YEMEN-- THE TURBAN WEARING OLD ELITE, EDUCATED IN TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC LAW AND YEMENI HISTORY--COMPARE TO THE LEFT IN SOPHISTICATION AND COHESIVENESS. SAADA, HOWEVER, CANNOT MAKE APPEAL TO PEOPLE THAT LEFT IS CAPABLE OF GENERATING, AND CANNOT CALL ON OUTSIDE HELP OF STATES LIKE LIBYA AND IRAQ FOR EITHER FUNDING OR ENCOURAGEMENT.

4. SAID STATED THAT FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS HAMDI NOW BELIEVES HE HAS SUPPORT OF BOTH SYRIAN AND IRAQI GOVTS. THIS IS CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE, GIVEN WILLINGNESS OF THESE GOVTS (ESPECIALLY IRAQIS) IN PAST TO BACK DISSIDENT GROUPS OF YEMEN BAATHIS IN COUPS AND TO CARRY OUT ASSASSINATIONS OF YEMENI LEADERS. IRAQIS TOLD HAMDI DURING VISIT TO BAGHDAD THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE THEIR 3000 IRAQI DINARS A MONTH STIPEND FOR MUHSIN AL-AYNI, BUT ALSO INFORMED AYNI THAT THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT "HAND HIM YEMEN ON A SILVER PLATTER." IRAQIS SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT LOCAL BAATHIS AGAINST HAMDI.

5. IN A GLOOMY CODA SAID SPOKE BOTH DISPAIRINGLY AND WITHERINGLY ABOUT "DEMOCRACY" IN YEMEN, SAYING THAT "FREE" ELECTIONS TODAY WOULD BRING LEFTISTS TO POWER AND CREATE A STATE IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO PLACE FOR MAN LIKE HAMDI, WHO BALANCED, CAUTIOUS, AND PRAGMATIC.

6. COMMENT: TURN AGAINST THE YEMENI LEFT WILL INEVITABLY FOCUS ON YAR SOUTHERNERS WHO ARE RIVALS TO AHMED SAID IN AREAS AROUND HIS HOME CITY OF TAIZ. THIS CAN ONLY PLEASE SAID WHO HAS PESSIMISTIC AND SUSPICIOUS STREAK AFTER TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL CAREER WHICH HAS INCLUDED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN EGYPT (AUG 6-JULY 67), SIEGE OF SANA BY YEMENI TRIBESMEN (DEC 67-MARCH 68), AND INNUMERABLE COUP AND ASSASSINATION EPISODES. SAID'S IMPATIENCE EXTENDS TO THE USG AT TIMES, BUT HE IS BASICALLY GOOD FRIEND AND SOUND CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATOR. IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HAMDI'S TURN AGAINST LEFT IS REAL, AND WILL TEST BOTH FIBRE AND MORALE OF YARG AS WELL AS STRAIN ITS RELATIONS WITH PDRY. SCOTES

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